

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
ARTHOG VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER 2018

777: The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present. Also present was Lisa Goodier, Gwynedd Council, who asked to make a presentation to the Community Council reference Fairbourne Moving Forward and The Master Plan.

778: Present: Cllr P Thomas Chairman, Cllr P Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) R Stott, Cllr B Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Lisa Goodier Gwynedd Council, Angela Thomas - Clerk

779: Apologies Received: Cllr S Eves, Vice Chairman and Cllr J Haycock.

780: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: Nil

781: Presentation by Lisa Goodier: Lisa Goodier started by saying FMF/Project Board had had further discussions with Welsh Government and had some feedback from them. It was felt that the Governments representatives did not understand that it was a Climate Change issue, it felt like they had not even read the bid properly, not understanding that it had to be sustainable. Paul Bryant, the treasury person, suggested that the way forward was to place homeless people in the properties purchased by the Project Board. Lisa Goodier made it clear that that would be totally unacceptable to the residents of Fairbourne. His idea was to save money for Gwynedd Council, however, he obviously did not see the bigger picture, ie no jobs, Welsh speaking schools only, limited transport, limited shopping opportunities, no entertainment for children, limited medical centre, etc, etc. Fairbourne is a very stable community, mainly inhabited by an older population and that should not be de-stabled. Lisa Goodier likened the solution to that of Jaywick on the South East Coast. Aled Davies, Head of Social Services agreed with Lisa Goodier that the Paul Bryant solution was unacceptable. The Model put forward by the Project Board is both sustainable and workable and could be run out in any part of the country. The Model is going to be marketed, taking in celebrities etc., with a keen climate change interest at heart. Prince Charles was suggested as a person who might be interested, especially in light of being Prince of Wales. Lisa has an opportunity to go and speak to the committee for Climate Change who are the national advisors to Westminster. She had met with Alan Pugh, local estate agent who confirmed that properties in Fairbourne are selling but at 40% less than market value. However, cash sales are taking place. Cllr B Woolley asked LG how long she would continue to be involved with Fairbourne. She said she would be scaling back her visits over the Winter period but would pick up again in the Spring. The extra funding would allocated for her role here would cease, however, the role would continue under her Job Description and be funded via salary under the single revenue grant, for Statutory Duties. LG then moved onto the Master Plan. She said she is very much aware that Liz Saville Roberts gave the Community Council a copy of the many paged Draft Master Plan which was not in fact a finished product. The Master Plan has now been reduced down to approximately 20 pages of more reasonable language rather than technical jargon. Copies will be available at the Project Board Meeting Friday, but it is not yet ready for general distribution. LG is having a meeting with Aled

Davies on 19th December to discuss what will happen to residents at the time of abandonment. SNP is at this moment in time saying “no” to using land within the Park. They will have to bend, rather than trying to justify their own existence. The settlement plan will have to be in place by 2045 unless there is a breach beforehand. Cllr Woolley’s concern is how this plan is going to be presented to the residents of Fairbourne, as and when. Cllr Woolley said the way it is presented should reflect more on the “future” not on “abandonment”. Cllr Roberts said that although not palatable, Fairbourne is well ahead of the game compared to other villages both up and down the coast facing the same. Cllr Roberts was afraid that when these communities wake up to what is going to happen, Fairbourne will always be thought of as the “Village of the Damned” by the Press. What was needed was damage limitation. Lisa Goodier said that in the unlikely event of a breach in the next few years a recovery plan must be in place, hopefully not needed until decommissioning starts. Residents will be upset when talks start, but GC does have a duty of care to home people if they are without a home. Once the plan is in place talks will start to inform residents. Decisions made now will be the bench mark for the whole of the rest of the UK. The IPCC sea level rise statistics are already published and supposedly in line with predictions, ie 4mm per year. The Clerk requested a copy of these figures for the CC from Lisa Goodier. The results have been released earlier because supposedly there will be very little change between October 2018 and January 2019. LG reiterated that these figures are **factual and not predicted.** LG wrote to the Committee for Climate Change and asked if she could address them and they confirmed that they will see her, in Westminster. She will also target Michael Gove to see if he will talk to her. Liz Saville-Roberts would possibly be able to make that meeting somewhat more attainable. LG is also speaking to many different Mental Health practitioners reference the well-being of all peoples involved. The Chairman thanked Lisa Goodier for her presentation.

782: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Nil.

783: To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th November 2018: The minutes were confirmed and signed by the Chairman, proposed by Cllr. B Woolley and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) J Woolley.

784: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th November 2018: Nil

785: Clerks Report: The Clerk attended a One Voice Wales Meeting in Dolgellau and two points of interest arose. The first point was that the vast majority of Community Councils who were Audited by BDO LLP were very unhappy with their bills, including this CC. The Clerk said that she had written to the Welsh Audit Office asking for a reduction in the £511 bill received. The problem with the external audit this year lay with BDO LLP and their continued asking of more and more questions over and above those on the initial form. The Clerk was awaiting a reply from the WAO. The second piece of information of interest was that funding has been allocated for the repair and maintenance of Barmouth Railway bridge. The new operator has also confirmed that additional rolling stock will be introduced on Sundays and during the Summer months. Also making a presentation were Came and Co, the preferred Insurer of this CC. Some useful points were picked up. Cllr (Mrs) H Neville will become responsible for making a visual check monthly of the Play Park Equipment. An asset register will be made available to her with tick boxes and comments column. All other

assets will be checked on a monthly basis. This will all commence in January. Any projects undertaken by the CC must have a risk assessment, including the Remembrance Sunday Service. In the New Year, John Anderson, Tree Surgeon will be contacted to make a risk Assessment of the trees in the Cemetery. Cllr B Woolley asked about the Website, whether it was in Welsh as well as English. It was confirmed that it was bilingual. All Contractors are asked for Insurance Certificates. With regard to the Cemetery, The Chairman, Cllr P Thomas will contact the Grave Diggers, to make sure that all Health and Safety issues are in place, and Risk Assessments in place, and Public Liability Insurance. The Clerk sent a letter to Keith Ivens with regard to the clearing of ditches, including a paragraph requesting a copy of the technical drawing/layout of the ditches and sluice gates etc. Liz Saville-Roberts was copied into the letter. LSR had supplied the CC with a copy of a letter from the NRW listing all monies spent on the defence of Fairbourne from the sea and from ground water which made very interesting reading. The Clerk was asked to follow up on several items in the listing, asking for LSR to write on our behalf. The North Wales Police have asked for completion of a survey on Police and Crimes Plans in our areas. Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes will complete that on behalf of the CC. The Chairman had asked the Clerk to speak to Steffan Jones about clearing the leaves off the road up to Cregennan Lakes. This had been completed.

786: Special Items Brought to Attention:

- (a) Fairbourne Amenities Trust: Cllr Roberts informed the CC that complete checks were being made on the toilets with regard to stability, electrics, etc prior to renting from GC. FAT will suggest to GC that they make an upfront payment of £50.00 the equivalent of 50 years, which was thought to be a great idea. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes asked Cllr Roberts to let FAT know that she would like to attend the meetings. FAT is holding fund of approximately £6000.00 with still £1000.00 to come from the CC upon receipt of the FAT Accounts.
- (b) The precept application form had been received and completed. The Clerk received permission to send it off.
- (c) Jones Bros Rock Armour Lorries. It was felt that the problem of speeding had been dealt with as the lorries were now driving at a much more sensible speed through the Village of Fairbourne, Arthog and Friog.
- (d) CC Assets. Cllr Neville volunteered to be responsible for the monthly sight check of the Play Park Equipment. A health check form will be drawn up. All other assets will also be checked on a monthly basis.
- (e) Salt Bins: The Clerk confirmed that the cost of filling the salt bins will be £60.00, however, if applications were made next year between May and August the cost reduces down to £40.00 per bin. Just the one bin between Cllr Thomas and Cllr Haycock, leading up to Cregennan Lakes needed filling and the Clerk said she would arrange for that to be done, but we are still waiting for a replacement bin.

787: To Deal with any Correspondence: A letter had been received from Mrs Vikki Mills in Penmaenpool asking for financial support for a defibrillator for that area. She needed £1490.00, she had crowd funded and also asked for donations from local business and was £234.00 short. It would appear that she is just out of our area, however the CC agreed to donate the odd £34.00. Cllr (Mrs) Stott, Cllr (Mrs) Woolley and Cllr (Mrs) Neville however, all said that they would help in any way possible to raise the last £200.00. It was agreed

that their contact details would be passed to Mrs Mills. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Stott.

788: To Deal with Planning Matters: A Planning Application had been received for the erection of a metal shed on the site of the Fairbourne Village Hall. No objections were raised.

789: Financial Statement and Report: The Clerk gave the financial report for the month of November.

Current Account: £9303.66

Reserve Account: £4741.69 including 80p interest

Youth Account: £7713.00 including 1.30 interest

Cheques cashed £1000.00 grass cutting P Roberts, £100.00 L C Jones Cemetery, £180.00 Internal Audit GC, £82.19 Angela Thomas Clerk, stationery, £13.60 Vodafone Mobile. The CC also received the sum of £125.00 as compensation and reimbursement from Nat West. Cheques written out: £34.00 to Mrs V Mills for defibrillator for Penmaenpool. £25.00 payment for the Wreath. The Clerk reported that the opening of the new bank accounts with HSBC was nearing completion and should be in place for the New Year.

A bill had been received from the Welsh Audit office for £511.95 for the External Audit. It was a shock. £400.00 had been set aside as a maximum. A letter asking for a review of the bill had been sent by the Clerk and at this moment in time no answer had been received but it had been acknowledged. It would appear that lots of local CC's have had the same shocking bill and had also appealed against them. Three bills had been received from Mr. ap Gomer the Website manager. One bill for the renewal 1st March of the CC Website £184.00, one bill for the renewal of the Fairbourne Community Flood Plan Site, 1st January 2019, £184.00, which the CC had been unaware of and a 3rd bill relating to the Fairbourne Community Flood Plan site, £135.00 dating back to January 2018. The first two bills will be dealt with in the New Year, however, the billing dated January 2018 was not budgeted for and an assessment will have to be made at the end of the current financial year as to whether there are funds available to meet that bill. The Clerk was asked to find out if it is a legal requirement to have a Website, she would ask One Voice Wales. It was proposed by Cllr (Mrs) Stott and seconded by Cllr B Woolley that the two bills be paid in the new year at the January 2019 meeting.

790: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr Roberts read a letter that had been drafted by Mike Scott and signed off in the name of the Clerk, Angela Thomas. The letter was extensive and repeated a lot of what had been written before. The subject matter was Penrhyn Point North. It covered parking spaces, passing loop, height restriction barrier, pay and display machine, tarmacking and signage. It was felt that the Clerk should precise the letter and then send it. The letter was addressed to Iwan ap Trevor, GC.

791: Representatives Report: Cllr B Woolley asked whether there had been an update on clearing the ditches. The Clerk reported that she was still waiting to hear from Keith Ivens but that she would involve Liz Saville-Roberts in trying to get a quicker response. Cllr

Woolley also asked had the Clerk sourced a Laptop. The Clerk replied that after careful consideration, looking at both Curry's and Tesco, the better deal was to be had from going to Dell direct, and that she would proceed with that in the early New Year with a budget of £500.00. Proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Neville. The Clerk had been asked by Cllr Eves to raise the question of the new tarmac road which had been put in place on Penrhyn Drive South. Cllr Eves asked if the NRW would consider leaving in place this road which would be an asset to the Village. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes said she would ask the question, and visit the site Manager, and/or ask the NRW. Cllr (Mrs) Hughes reported that she had been to a meeting with regard to boosting the economy of the North Wales Authorities, over a period of 10 years. She pointed out to the leader of the Council that any funds available should be spread evenly not allowing the larger, more urban communities to receive greater funding than the rural areas such as Gwynedd. **People need jobs.**

792: Date and time of Next Meeting: 8th January 2019 in Fairbourne Village Hall. The Chairman wished all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.